

PRECEPTS

FOR

CHRISTIAN PRACTICE;

Or, the Rule of the

New

CREATURE:

Containing Duties to be
served by every Believer.

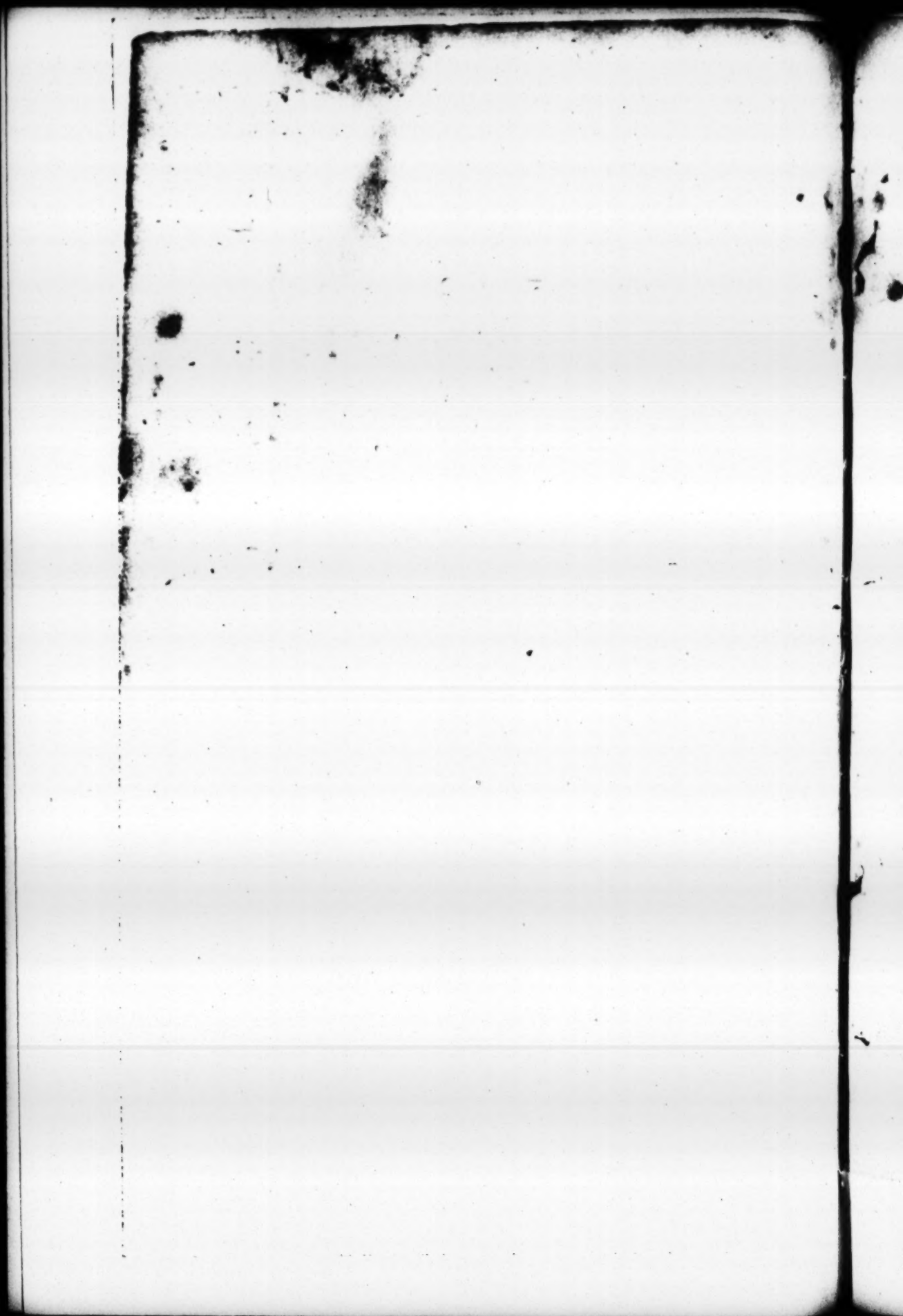
Gal. 6. 16. And as many as walk according
to this rule, peace be on them and
Mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Cambridge

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1777

*Just what
I want*





THE
heads of the Ten
DUTIES.

The first Duty.

BEE alwayes sensible of thy Original corruption, and consider how it inclineth thee continually to all evil and indispoeth thee to any good, groan under it, and bewail it; Also take special notice of your actual sins or daily infirmities, in thought, word, and deed, and indeavour to make your peace with God } before you go to bed.

The second Duty.

Get your union with Christ, and your
A 2 interest

Interest in him, cleared and confirmed to you
daily more and more, that you are a branch in
his Vine, and a member in his Body.

The third Duty.

Labour to draw and derive from Christ
by the powerfull attractive force of Faith,
spirituall abilities sufficient for the day.

The fourth Duty.

Performe all Duties, both in Family and
Closet, especially these three, of *prayer, medi-*
tation and reading, and do them with sincere
attention, with heat of affection, and with
diligence and delight.

The fifth Duty.

Fortifie your selves every morning against
your special Lusts, to which by Nature you
are most prone, or shall be most tempted;
see it *Pride, Passion, Covetousness, or the*
like.

The sixth Duty.

Get your hearts strongly fixed on God by
trusting

trusting in him, and submitting to him, against all *Fears, Cares, Doubts, Trials and Afflictions* of every Day; For sufficient is the day is the evil thereof.

The seventh Duty.

Get and keep continually a savory relish of your Christian priviledges, wherewith you are invested as you are new Creatures in Christ.

The eighth Duty.

Sanctifie the Lord in your hearts daily, make him your fear, your love and delight.

The ninth Duty.

Get a publike spirit, first, to miude the things of Jesus Christ as naturally as if they were your own; secondly, to look on the things of others, and to preferre *Jerusalems* welfare before your chiefest joy, and the *Gosels* *Liberty* before your own, and to mourn for the sins of the times as the Godly in *Jerusalem* did.

The tenth Duty.

Get your hearts daily weaned from the World, and from those Creatures and Comforts in it which are dearest and sweetest to you, as *Wife, Children, Friends, Goods, Liberty, House, and Life, &c.*

PRE-

P R E C E P T S

F O R


CHRISTIAN PRACTICE,

*Or the Rule of the New CREATURE,
To be daily observed by every Believer, in
the practice of these ten following DUTIES.*

The first Duty.

*Bee alwayes sensible of thy original corruption,
and consider how it inclineth thee continually to all
evil, and indisposeth thee to any good; groan under
it and bewaile it as Paul did, Rom. 7. 27. O
wretched man that I am. who shall deliver mee
from the body of this death! Also take special
notice of of your actual sin, or daily infirmities in
thought, word, and deed; endeavour to make your
peace with God before you go to bed.*

Which must be done these four wayes.

- I.  Y repenting and confessing
your sins to God; work-
ing your hearts to grief
and sorrow for them by
some such melting con-
siderations as these. 1. Of

2 Precepts for Christian Practice, or
the goodness of God to you. 2 Of the un-
reasonableness and every way unprofitableness
of sin; and 3. Of the great damage, pre-
judice, and hurt that commeth to the Soul
by sin.

2. By believing and casting your self wholly
on Christs Righteousness for remission of sin,
and for reconciliation with God, Rom. 3. 22,
23, 24, 25. 22. Even the righteousness of God,
which is by Faith of Jesus Christ unto all, and
upon all them which believe: for there is no asse-
ssment. 23. For all have sinned and come short of
the glory of God. 24. Being justified freely by his
grace through the redemption that is in Jesus
Christ. 25. Whom God hath set forth to be a
propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare
his righteousness for the remission of sins: that are
past through the forbearance of God.

3. By cleaving to Gods promise of pardon
and peace, as Isai. 43. 25. I even I am he that
blot out thy transgressions for mine own sake,
and will not remember thy sins. Rom. 5. 1. There-
fore being justified by faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. By waiting till the Lord shall speak unto
you, Psal. 85. 8. I will hear what the Lord will
speak, for he will speak peace unto his People, and
to his Saints: but let them not turne again to folly.
The

The second Duty.

Get your union with Christ and your interest in him cleared and confirmed to you daily more and more, that you are a branch in his vine, and a member in his body.

This is done three wayes.

First, by daily renewal of your faith in Christ, especially of that act of faith whereby the soule knitteth or tyeth it self unto Christ; casts and reules it self on Christ for salvation. Cause your hearts in a solemn manner every day to act this part, or to put forth this primitive act of faith in the view of the whole Soul: The daily exercise hereof will increase and strengthen the diuine habit of faith in your Soul; and make your Soul sensible of the very act of it: By frequent believing you shall feel at your very heart that you do believe, so shall you have in your self a witness, that you are in Christ, 1 Joh. 5, 10. *Hee that believeth in the Son of God hath the witness in himself, &c.*

Secondly, by examining your heart upon what grounds you took Christ to be yours: The grounds are these five. 1. A sight and
sense

1. *Precepts for Christian Practice, or*
sense of your sins, as of the guilt, power, and
punishment of them, and of your misery by
them, *Mat. 11. 28. Come unto me all ye that*
labour and be heavy laden, and I will give you
rest.

2. Your want of Christ seen, and felt at
your very heart, to Justifie, Sanctifie, Redeem,
and save you, else you are utterly lost, and un-
done everlastingly, *Luk. 19. 10. For the Son of*
man is come to seek and to save that which was
lost.

3. Gods free and general offer of Christ to
any that will take him by Faith, *Joh. 3. 16. For*
God so loved the World that he gave his only be-
gotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should
not perish, but have everlasting life. There are
manifold promises to that purpose, and the
grounds of all Gods offers and donations of
Christ to the poor soul are free Grace, rich
Mercy, undeserved Love, *Ephes. 2. 4, 5, 6, 7.*
But God who is rich in Mercy, for his great Love
wherewith he loved us; 5. Even when wee were
dead in sins hath quickened us together with Christ
(by grace yee are saved.) 6. And hath raised us
up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly
places in Christ Jesus; 7. That in the ages to
come he might shew the exceeding riches of his
grace in his kindness towards us. Titus 3. 4, 5, 6.
But

16 Rule of the New Creature.

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour towards man appeared; 5. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost, 6. Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

4. Christs sweet and gracious invitation of such to come to him as are weary of sin, and that have neither worth in themselves nor money to buy, *Mat. 11. 28.* Come unto mee all yee that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Isai. 55. 1.* Hoe every one that thirste come to the waters, and he that hath no money, come yee, buy and eat, yea come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

5. As sinful vile wretches as you are, have been sought of Christ and found in Christ, *1 Cor. 6. 10, 11.* Nor the rev., nor covetous, nor drunkard, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11. Such were some of you: but yee are washed, but yee are sanctified, but yee are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God. *1 Tim. 1. 13* Paul was a Blasphemer, Persecutor, and yet obtained Mercy. Therefore why may not you? Thus the more clearly you discern on what grounds you take Christ, the clearer will your title

6 *Precepts for Christian Practice, or*
tides to Christ be evidenced to your own soul,
17. By surveying and observing in what
manner you take Christ daily, which is,

1. Whether you do wholly renounce all
opinion and conceit of your own righteous-
ness and desert, *Mark 8. 34. Whosoever will*
come after me, let him deny himself, and take up
his Crosse and follow me. Phil. 3. 7, 8, 9. But
what things were gaine to me, those I counted
loss for Christ. 8. Yea doubtless, and I count all
things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge
of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffer-
ed the loss of all things, and do count them but
dung that I may win Christ. 9. And be found
in him not having my own righteousness which is
of the Law, but that which is through the faith
of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by
faith. Thus you come to Christ empty of
your self, yea very vile and nothing in your
own eyes, unworthy to receive him.

2. Whether you lay hold on Christ with
an empty hand of faith, joyning nothing
at all with Christ in the matter of salva-
tion; as the holy Martyr at the stake cryed
out, *None but Christ, none but Christ.*

3. Whether you finde the Father drawing
your hearts after Christ, *1st Joh. 6. 44. No man*
can come unto mee except the Father which hath
sent

th Rule of the New Creature. 7

sent me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day: Which is in hungering and panting desires that will never be satisfied without him; So that both the stream of your judgement, and affections run after him, as 1 Cor. 2. ver. 2. For I determined to know nothing among you but Jesus Christ and him crucified, Gal. 6. 14. But God forbid I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the World is Crucified unto me, and I unto the World.

4. Whether you take Christ as well for a Lord to rule you, as a Jesus to save you, Col. 2. 6. As ye therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: As one that is all in all to you, your wisdom, your righteousness, your sanctification and redemption, 1 Cor. 1. 30. Your spiritual food, Job. 6. 48. I am that bread of life ver. 55. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood to drink indeed.

Your rayment, Rem. 13. 14. But put yee on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the Flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Your strength, Phi 4. 13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Your life, Gal. 2. 20. I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in mee; and the life which I now live in the Flesh, I live

8 *Precepts for Christian Practice, or*

I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for mee. Col 3. 3. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God.

5. Whether you seek and wait for Christ (out of the sense of your spiritual want and penury in every ordinance, publick and private, Word, Sacraments, Prayer, Meditation and Conference, not as they are your own works of Sanctification, but as they are Gods Ordinances appointed on purpose, for the manifestation and communication of Christ to the Soul. Frequent perusal hereof will clear to you your manner of taking Christ, and that will evidence to you your right and title which you have in Christ Jesus.

The third Duty.

Labour to draw and derive from Christ by the powerful attractive force of Faith, spiritual ability sufficient for the any.

First, to perform all your duties, *Phil. 4. 13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Secondly, to exercise all your graces, *2 Cor. 3. 5. Not that we are sufficient of our selves, to think any thing as of our selves but our sufficiency is of God.*

Thirdly

Thirdly, to resist and overcome all your corruptions and temptations, Rom. 8. 37. *In all these things we are more then conquerors through him that loved us.*

Fourthly, to undergo all your tryals and afflictions, Job. 1. 16. *And of his fulness have we all received, and grace for grace.*

Make your provision of strength and grace from Christ, every morning fetch from him so much as you shall have occasion to use all the day long, yea and upon all occasions that fall out in the day, go to Christ still for the wisdom that must direct you, for the holiness that must Character you for the shoulder that must bear your Crosses, for the strength that must resist your temptations, and for ability to perform all Duties as Duties.

To this end act your faith daily in the promises of grace and strength, as Job. 1. 16. *Of his fulness have we all received, and grace for grace,* Isai. 44. 3. *I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine off-spring,* Ezek. 36. 26, 27. *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27. And I will put my Spirit within*

10 *Precepts for Christian Practice, or*
walk in you, and cause you to walk in my statutes,
and ye shall keep my judgements and do them,
Zech. 10. 12. And I will strengthen them in the
Lord, and they shall walk up and down in his
name, saith the Lord. These and the like pro-
misses are security given you by God, that you
shall receive grace in the use of the ordi-
nances, which are as the conduit pipes or in-
struments of conveying the same from Christ
to you.

This is the way and means to do all in the
strength of Christ, and to take forth a great
deal of Christ into your soules, that not you
but Christ may live in you, Gal. 2. 20. I am cruci-
fied with Christ : Nevertheless I live, y^t not I but
Christ liveth in me ; and the life which I now live
in the Fl. sh, I live by the faith of the Son of God,
who loved me, and gave himself for mee.

The fourth Duty.

Perform daily duties both in Family and
Closet, especially these three, of Prayer Medita-
tion and Reading ; and do them with sincere in-
tention, with heat of affection, and with diligence
and delight. Jer 48. 10. Cursed be hee that doth
the work of the Lord deceitfully, or negligently.
Matth.

the Rule of the New Creature. 13

Mat. 1. 14. But cursed be the deceiver which hath in his flock a male, and voweth and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King saith the Lord of Hosts, and my name is dreadful among the Heavens, 1 Chron. 21. 24. And King David said to Ornan, Nay, but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.

To this end,

First, watch to these duties, keep the heart in a good frame for them, undefiled with sin, untainted by the world, Ephes. 6. 18 Praying alwayes with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all Saints.

Secondly, take the fittest time for the performance of them all, when you are least dull and sluggish. begin the day constantly with thoughts of God. Psal. 57. 7, 8, 9. My heart is fixed, O God my heart is fixed, I will sing and give praise: awake up my glory, awake Psaltery and harpe, I my self will awake early, I will praise thee O Lord.

Thirdly. be very real, serious, and substantial with God in them, endeavour to feel all duties at your heart, inliving, inlarging.

B

12 *Precepts for Christian Practice, or*
flaming your affections, *Deut. 4. 29* Thou
shalt love the Lord thy God if thou seek him
with all thy heart and with all thy soul, *Deut. 6. 5.*
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine
heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might,
Mat. 22. 37. I will run the way of thy Com-
mandments when thou shalt enlarge my heart.
These be the duties of most importance and
consequent commodity and comfort to the
Soul, because they properly aim at, and reach
to the souls good, and seek it all happiness, yea
even to the training up of a soul for Heaven.

The fifth Duty.

Fortify yourself every morning against your
special Lusts, to which by nature you are most
prone, or shall be most tempted; see it Pride,
Passion, Covetousness, or the like.

This is done,

First by holy Arguments and reasonings
within yourselves, drawn from the sad
effects thereof as Disquiet, Discomfort,
Disgrace or the like; this will discover the
unreasonableness of your sins and make your
sins ashamed of them. For example, I shall
be proud? then I shall be sure to fall, for
pride goeth before destruction, and a
haughty

the Rule of the New Creature 13

haughty spirit before a fall, *Pov. 16. 18.* and God will account me for his enemy for God resisteth the proud, *Jam. 4. 6.* Shall I be angry? If I let passion in, I cannot keep Satan out, *Ephes. 4. 26, 27.* Be angry, but sin not, let not the Sun go down upon your wrath 27. Neither give place unto the Devil. Again, I shall grieve the holy Spirit of God, *1 Cor. 30 31.* And grieve not the holy Spirit of God whereby yee are sealed to the day of Redemption. 31. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Shall I be covetous? I cannot but be very sinful, sith the love of money is the root of all evil. *1 Tim. 6 10*

Secondly, By pondering in your minde upon the precepts in Gods book against your sins, *Pov. 6. 23 24.* For the Commandment is a lamp, and the Law is light: and the proof of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of her tongue, of a strange woman. And on the judgements threatened or inflicted for them; as on proud *Herod, Act. 12 23.* voluptuous *Dives, Luk. 16. 23.* churlish *Nabal, 1 Sam. 25. 28*

Thirdly, By applying the promises of mortification close to your hearts, as a plaster to the sore, for subduing your iniquities, *Mat. 7. 19*

14 *Precepts for Christian Practice, or*

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us: he will subdue our iniquities, and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depth of the Sea, Rom. 6. 14. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under the Law, but under Grace,

Fourthly, By drawing vertue from Christs death into the soul, which hath in it a force of killing sin, Rom. 6. 4. 5. 6. Therefore we are buried with him by Baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father: even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. 6. Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Phil. 3. 10. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

The sixth Duty.

Get your hearts strongly fixed on God by trusting in him, and submitting to him, against all Fears, Cares, Doubts, Tryals, and Afflictions of every day, for sufficient to the day is the
the

the Rule of the New Creature. 25

the evil thereof, *Psal.* 112. 7. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings, his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. *2 Sam.* 15. 26. But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee, behold here I am, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him, *1 Sam.* 3. 18. It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good. *Mat.* 6. 34. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of it self: sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

To this End,

First, be prudent to fore-see your personal tryals and troubles, whatsoever they are like to be, *Prov.* 22. 3. A prudent man fore-sees the evil, and hideth himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

2. Go hide, and lay up your self in God, run unto his name, for God is a rock of habitation, to which a poor soul may continually resort, yea God will give commandment to save all such as thus do come unto him, *Psal.* 71. 3. Thou hast given Commandment to save me, thou art my rock and my fortress, *1 Pet.* 4. 19. Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

B 3

3. Especially

3. Especially commit that very thing to God whatsoever you desire to keep, or fear to lose, put it into his hands, 2 Tim. 1. 12. I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day: be it Life, Liberty, Name, Friends, Maintenance, &c. What you would have resolved, if it be a doubt, Psal. 37. 5. Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass. Or supplied if it be a want, Psa. 37. 4. Delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desire of thy heart. Or removed, if it be a cross, Prov. 16. 7. When a mans wayes please the Lord; he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. And together with the thing cast all your Care, Fear, Sorrow, and Troubles of Minde about it wholly on the Lord, Mat. 6. 31. Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or wherewith shall we be clothed? ver. 33. But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. 1 Pet. 5. 7. Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you. Psal. 55. 22. Cast thy burthen upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee, he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Fourthly, Renew your Faith in those promises

the Rule of the New Covenant

misers every day, which most concern your present estate; and in promises first of supplies, if you be in want, Psal. 34. 8. *Open your mouth for that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in him.* Psal. 37. 3. *Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shall thou abide in the Land, and verily thou shalt be fed.* And 84. 11. *For the Lord God is a Sun and a Shield, the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.* Mat. 6. 30. *Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field, which is to day, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little Faith* 2. Of protection, if you be in danger, Psal. 34. 7. *The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.* 3. Of Direction, if in doubt, Jam. 1. 5. *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him.* 4. Of Deliverance if in trouble, Job 5. 19. *He shall deliver thee in six troubles, yea in seven, there shall no evil touch thee.* 5. Of a good end, and sanctified use of all. Deut. 8. 16. *I have fed thee in the Wilderness with Manna, which thy Fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end, Jam. 5. 11. Be-*

Precept for Christian Practice, or

bold, we account them happy which endure: ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. Rom. 8. 28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God: to them who are called according to his purpose. Heb. 12. 10. For they verily for a few dayes chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Finally, Labour to see Gods hand, Psal. 39. 9. I was dumbe, I opened not my mouth, because thou didst it. To believe his love. Heb. 12. 6. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth, Rev. 3. 19. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, be zealous therefore and repent. And with all meekness, and patience resigne up your selves wholly to his will in every affliction. Mat. 26. 39 O my Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

The seventh Day.

Get, and keep a savory relish continually of your Christian priviledges, wherewith you are invested as you are new Creatures in Christ.

As

the Rule of the New Creature

AS, first, Of your dignity, that you are the Sons of God. 1 Joh. 3. 1, 2. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God. Beloved, now are we the Sons of God, and it doth yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 2. Christs Brethren, Heb. 2. 11. He is not ashamed to call them Brethren: but saith, Joh. 20. 17. Go unto my Brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God and your God. 3. Heavens Heirs, Jam. 2. 5. Hearken my beloved Brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this World rich in Faith, and Heires of the Kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? 4. Partakers of a High, and Heavenly calling, Heb. 2. 1.

2. Of your liberty, that you are the Lords freemen. 1 Co. 7. 22. For he that is called of the Lord being a Servant, is the Lords freeman. Delivered out of the hands of all your enemies. 2 Tim. 2. 39. But the Lord your God shall ye fear & he shall deliver you out of the hands of your enemies Thralty, of your victory, that you are through Christ more then Conquerors over all this World of Creatures, 1 Joh. 5. 4. For what

Principles for Christian Practice, or

of God, overcometh the World, and
the Victory overcometh the World, even
now. 1st. Rom. 8. 15. For we have not re-
ceived the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but
we have received the Spirit of Adoption, where-
by we cry, Abba, Father. ver. 16. The Spirit
itself bearing witness with our Spirits that we
are the Children of God. ver. 17. And if children,
then heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ; if so be
that we suffer with him, that we may be also glori-
fied together. Fourthly, of your Safety, that you
have almighty God. 1. For your place of refuge,
Psal. 48. 2. God is known in her Palaces (in
Zion) for a refuge. 2. For a hedge of Pro-
vidence, Job 1. 10. Hast thou not made a hedge
about him, and about his house, and about all
that he hath? 3. For a guard of Angels,
Psal. 91. 11. For he shall give his Angels charge
over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 4. For an
inclosure of Mercy, Psal. 32. 10. Many sorrows
shall be to the wicked, but he that trusteth in
the Lord, mercy shall compass him; for the promises
of God are a writ of Protection for your defence.
Heb. 13. 5 6. Let your conversation be without
covetousness, and be content with such things
as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave
thee, nor forsake thee. ver. 6. So that we may
say, the Lord is my help, and I will not
fear.

16. Rule of the New Creatures

fear what man shall do unto me.

Fifthly, Of your Riches, and durable substance in heaven, Heb. 10. 34. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in your selves that you have in heaven a better and enduring substance: also an incorruptible inheritance, 1 Pet. 1. 4. To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, &c. A kingdom of glory, and a crown of life; for you are heirs of God, and co-heirs with Christ.

Sixthly, Of your Joy and Pleasure, precious, for kinde, and plentiful for measure, Psal. 16. 11. Thou wilt shew me the path of Life, in thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Peace unconfutable, Phil. 4. 7. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Joy unspeakable. 1 Pet. 1. 8. Whom having not seen, in whom, though now ye see him not, believing, ye rejoyce with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. The Masters joy.

Get your hearts affected with all these as being yours. Chew and suck them by tedious Meditation. work, and warme them on your hearts, by close application, rubbing them

Precepts for Christian Practice, or
your affections. Oppose these your spi-
rituall priviledges to all your temporall pref-
erences, setting the one against the other; as
your heavenly friends to your earthly foes,
your high dignity in Christ, to your low estate
and meanness in outward condition, your
wealth above to your want below, your fu-
ture joyes and rest to your present troubles
and sorrows. This will make you not onely
patient under the afflictions of this life, *Rom.*
12. 12. Rejoycing in hope, patient in tribula-
tion, continuing in prayer; but also joyfull in
them, as Rom. 5. 3. And not onely so, but glory
in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation
worketh patience; and triumphant over them, as
1 Cor. 15. 55. O death where is thy sting? O grave
where is thy victory? Thus did the Apostles
Rom. 8. 18. For I reckon that the sufferings of
this present time, are not worthy to be compared
with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 2 Cor.
4. 17. For our light affliction, which is but for a
moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding
and eternal weight of glory. Verse 18. While we
look not at the things which are seen, but at the
things which are not seen; for the things which are
seen are temporal; but the things which are not
seen are eternall. So Chap. 6. verse 8 9, 10.
By honour, and dishonour, by evil report, and
good

good report; as deceivers and yet true. ver. 9. As unknown and yet well known; as dying and behold we live; as chastened, and not killed. ver. 10 as sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

These will provoke to duties, 1 Pet. 2. 9, You are a chosen generation, a royal Priesthood, a holy Nation, a peculiar People, that you should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous Light, ver. 11. I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly Lusts, which war against the Soul. ver. 12. Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that whereas they spake against you, as evil doers; they may by your good Works which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of their visitation. And preserve you. 1. From fainting 2 Cor. 4. 16, 17. For which cause we faint not, though our outward man perish; yet the inward man is renewed day by day. And 2. From trouble of heart, Job. 14. 1. Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me. ver. 2. in my Fathers house are many Mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you.

Precepts for Christian Practice, or

The eighth Duty.

Sanctifie the Lord in your hearts daily, *1 Pet. 1. 15. But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Make him your fear, Isa. 8. 13. Sanctifie the Lord of Hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. Your love and delight, as Psal. 37. 4. Delight thy self also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

To this End,

First, have often high and honourable thoughts of God, serious meditations of his glorious Attributes, as his Wildome, Power, Truth, Mercy, Justice, &c. and work them upon your hearts, that they may Eccho to them with pure, and melting affections. This will increase and nourish up the divine nature in you, *2 Pet. 1. 4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these you might be partakers of the divine Nature.*

Secondly, Labour to be affected with all the works of God, as first to behold, and admire the wildome of God in the Creatures, *Job 12. 5. To him that by wisdom made the*

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the Heavens; for his mercy endureth for ever.
2. To see, and taste Gods goodness in every mercy, Psal. 34. 8. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him. 3. To take notice of, and to tremble at the anger, and displeasure of God in all his Judgements. Psa. 119. 120. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy Judgements. Hab. 3. 16. When I heard, my belly trembled my lips quivered at thy voice, rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in my self: but I might rest in the day of trouble. 4. That you may answer the dispensations of Gods providence with suitable dispositions; let your hearts carry a counterpane in affection to all Gods actions, 1. y. 26. 8. Yea, in the way of thy Judgements have we waited for thee, the desire of our soul is to thy Name, and to the remembrance of thee.

Thirdly, Wrestle with God by praying, and believing for an heart of flesh, which will receive impressions from the very thought of God in the minde, E. ek. 36, 26. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Fourthly, Apply promises of pardon to affections

Precepts for Christian Practice, or

1. Of Love: as first of love, Dent. 30. 6. And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest Live.

2. Of Fear. Jer. 32. 40. And I will make an everlasting Covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them to do them good; but I will put my fear in their Heart, that they shall not depart from me. 3. Of Delight, I/ai. 58 13. 14. ver. 13. I thou wilt turn away thy feet from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure in my holy day. &c. ver. 14. Then shalt thou delight thy self in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the Earth, and feed thee with the Heritage of Jacob thy Father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. There is heart, and life in these promises, sufficient to quicken and warm thy dead and frozen affections.

The ninth Duty.

Get a publick Spirit, first, to minde the things of Jesus Christ, as naturally as if they were your own, Phil. 3. 20. For I have

the Rule of the New Creature.

have no man like minded, who will naturally care for your estate. **ver. 21.** For all seek their own, not the things which are *Jesus Christs*. Secondly, to look on the things of others, and prefer. **first**, Jerusalems welfare before your chiefest joy, *Psal. 137. 5, 6.* If I forget thee O *Jerusalem*, let my right hand forget her cunnings. **ver. 6.** If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not *Jerusalem* above my chiefest joy. And secondly, the Gospels liberty before your own, as *Paul* did: And thirdly, to mourn for the sins of the times, as the Godly in *Jerusalem* did, *Ezek. 9. 4.* And the Lord said unto him, go through the midst of the City, through the midst of *Jerusalem*; and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Especially lay to heart,

First, The Churches misery, when Gods Ordinances go down, and Superstition goeth up, when Gods cause and side are put to the worst, when any thing falls out, that gives a blow to Religion, or proves an impediment to the Gospel. If the same be taken. call your comforts *Isa. 66. 1* *Sam. 4. 21.*

2. The afflictions of *Joseph*, *Amos 6. 6*

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Precepts for Christian Practice, or

That drink wine in bowles, and annoint themselves with the chief ointment; but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph: the sufferings of Gods servants, whether Ministers or People. O sympathize with them, Heb. 13. 3. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being your selves also in the body. Neh. 1. 4. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain dayes; and fasted and prayed before the God of Heaven: Labour to feel their trouble and sorrow at your very heart; and pray earnestly for them, as the Church did for Peter, Act. 12. 5. Peter therefore was kept in prison, but Prayer was made without ceasing of the Church to God for him.

Thirdly, The signes of the times, which hypocrites cannot discern (though they be well versed in the face of the Sky to wit, the sad symptomes, and presages of approaching Judgements: as first, The commonness of sin; for all sorts transgress in all kinds of open sinfulness with a high hand against the light of Nature, and the means of grace, Ezek. 12. 3. Son of Man, prepare thee (sing) for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place into another place in their sight; it may be they will forsake) though they be a rebellious house.

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the Rule of the New Creature

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2. Contempt of Gods Ordinances, wilful
of his Ministers, 2 Chron. 36. 15. But they
mocked the Messengers of God, and despised his
words, and misused his Prophets; until the wrath
of the Lord arose against his people, till there was
no remedy.

3. Departure of Gods glory from his house.
Ezek. 9. 3. And the glory of the God of Israel was
gone up from the Cherub whereupon he was, &c.

4. Incurribleness after former, and under
present judgements, Lev. 26. from ver. 14.
15, 16. But if ye will not hearken unto me, and
will not do all these Commandments, and if ye
shall despise my Statutes, or if your soul abhorre
my judgements; so that ye will not do all my
Commandments; but that ye break my Cove-
nants: I also will do this unto you; I will
even appoint over you Terror, Consumption, and
the burning Agus; that shall consume the eyes,
and cause sorrow of heart: and you shall sow
your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it:
and so on to the end of the Chapter.

5. The death of many righteous men,
and the carrying away of others to hiding
places, Iai. 57 1. The righteous perisheth, and no
man layes it to heart, and merciful men are taken
away; none considering that the righteous is taken
away from the world to come.

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6. The

*... of Christian Practice, or
... of God with poured on
... beyond the Seas, Jer. 7. 12. But
... into my place which in Shiloh, where I
... my Name at the first, and see what I have done
... it, for the wickedness of my people Israel.*

7. The inundation of spiritual judgements,
as a Spirit of Errour, Superstition, Apostasie,
or. which do commonly end in temporal
plagues, Isai. 6. 10, 11. *Make the heart of this
people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut
their eyes: lest they see with their eyes, and hear
with their ears, and understand with their heart,
and convert and be healed.* ver. 11. *Then said I,
Lord how long? and he answered, until the Cities
be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses with-
out man, and the Land be utterly desolate.*

Now the Holy Ghost is a publike Spirit
breathing and acting in all the members of the
mystical body of Christ: pray for it, Luk. 11.
13. *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good
gifts unto your Children; how much more shall
your heavenly Father give the Holy Ghost unto
them that ask him? believe for it, Gal. 3. 14.
That the blessing of Abraham may come on the
Gentiles, through Iesus Christ; that we might re-
ceive the promise of the Spirit; through faith. Ezek
36. 37. I will yet for this be enquired of by the
house of Israel, to do it for them. will increase
them with men like a flock.* The

the Rule of the New Testament

The first Duty

Get your heart daily weaned from the World, and from those creatures and comforts in it, which are dearest and sweetest to you, As Wife, Children, Friends, Goods, Liberty, House, Life. This Christ requires of those that follow him, *Luk. 14. 26, 27.* If any man come to me, and hate not his Father and Mother, and Wife and Children, and Brethren and Sisters; yea and his own life also, he cannot be my Disciple. 27. And whosoever doth not bear his Cross and come after me, cannot be my Disciple. *Mark 10. 29, 30.* Verily, I say unto you, there is no man hath left House, or Brethren, or Sisters, or Father, or Mother, or Wife, or Children, or Lands for my sake, and the Gospels; but he shall receive an hundred fold now in this time, Houses, and Brethren, and Sisters, and Mothers, and Children, and Lands with persecutions, and in the World to come eternal Life. This will prepare you either to suffer, or to dy' when God calls you to it.

To this end consider seriously;

First, that these things cannot satisfie your heart, when you have enjoyed them to the full, *Eccles. 4.* There is one alone, and there is not a second for he hath neither Child nor Brother

For the Burden for Christian Practice, or
The Burden of the World, and of all his labour, neither
can he be satisfied with riches; neither saith he for
his labour, and for my Soul of good? this
is vanity, yea, it is a sore travail. and chap.
5. 10. He that loveth silver, shall not be satisfied
with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with
increase: this is also vanity: you soon grow
weary of them, or glutted with them, so that
you desire some new delights, or more of the
old, or some over again.

Secondly, nor can they sanctifie you, but
will expose you oft to many lusts, temptations,
distractions, yea to a spirit of the World, and
they will hinder you from following of Christ,
1 Tim. 6 9, 10. But they that will be rich, fall
into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish
and hurtful Lusts, which drown men in destruction
and perdition. 10. For the love of maney is the
root of all evil; which whilst some coveted after,
they have erred from the Faith, and pierced them-
selves thorow with many sorrows. Mat. 19. 21, 22.
Jesus said unto the young man, if thou wilt be
perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the
poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven; and
come and follow me. 22. But when the young
man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful,
for he had great possessions.

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Thirdly, nor can they escape the wrath, from death and judgement. *Riches profit not in the day of wrath; neither multitude of riches delivereth from death.*

Fourthly, the wicked whose portion is only in this World, have often the greatest share of them. *Iob. 21. 7. to the 14. Wherefore do the wicked live, become old yea are mighty in power? 8. Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes. 9. Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them. 10. Their Bull gendereth and faileth not; their Cow calveth, and casteth not her calf. 11. They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. 12. They take the timbrel and harpe, and rejoyce at the sound of the organ. 13. They spend their dayes in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.*

Fifthly, they serve only in this life, while we are on this side of the grave, they shall not be the least ingredients into our celestial happiness. When we come to be happy in Heaven, we shall stand in no need of food, rayment, pl y-sick, marriage, &c. *Mat. 22. 30. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the Angels of God in Heaven. We shall hunger no more, neither thirst any mo*, *Rev. 7. 16 They shall hunger*

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more, neither shall the
We shall live
of God, which never
; we shall be clothed with
long white Robes of immortality, Rev.
2. 9. After this I beheld, and loe, a great multi-
tude, which no man could number of all Nati-
ons, and Kindreds, and People, and Tongues stood
before the Throne, and before the Lambe, clothed
with white robes, and palmes in their hands; In a
word, when we come to Heaven the place of
Gods Habitation, we shall enjoy the face, and
beatifical presence of the most glorious Jeho-
vah, blessed for ever, as an object, wherein all
the powers of our souls will be satisfied with
inestimable delight; and God will be unto us
everything all in all, 1 Cor, 15 28. And when
all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the
himself also be subject unto him, that put all
under him, that God may be all in all.

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